

## PART VI

## LIVESTOCK, DAIRYING AND POULTRY

General Importance

Livestock and livestock products form the most important part of Pend Oreille County's agricultural economy. According to the Census of Agriculture, farmers in the county sold animals and animal products worth \$1,222,488 in 1959. This figure represents over 82 percent of the value of all farm products sold in the county during that year.

In 1959, Pend Oreille County stockmen received \$738,119 from sales of livestock and livestock products other than poultry and dairy. Most of this figure represents cattle and calves sold alive off the farm. Farm sales of dairy products totaled \$452,822 during the same year. Marketing poultry and poultry products off the farm added \$30,844 to the county's agricultural economy. The importance of the county's livestock industry as indicated by the amount of sales is further shown by the fact that most of the area's cropland is devoted to feed crops.

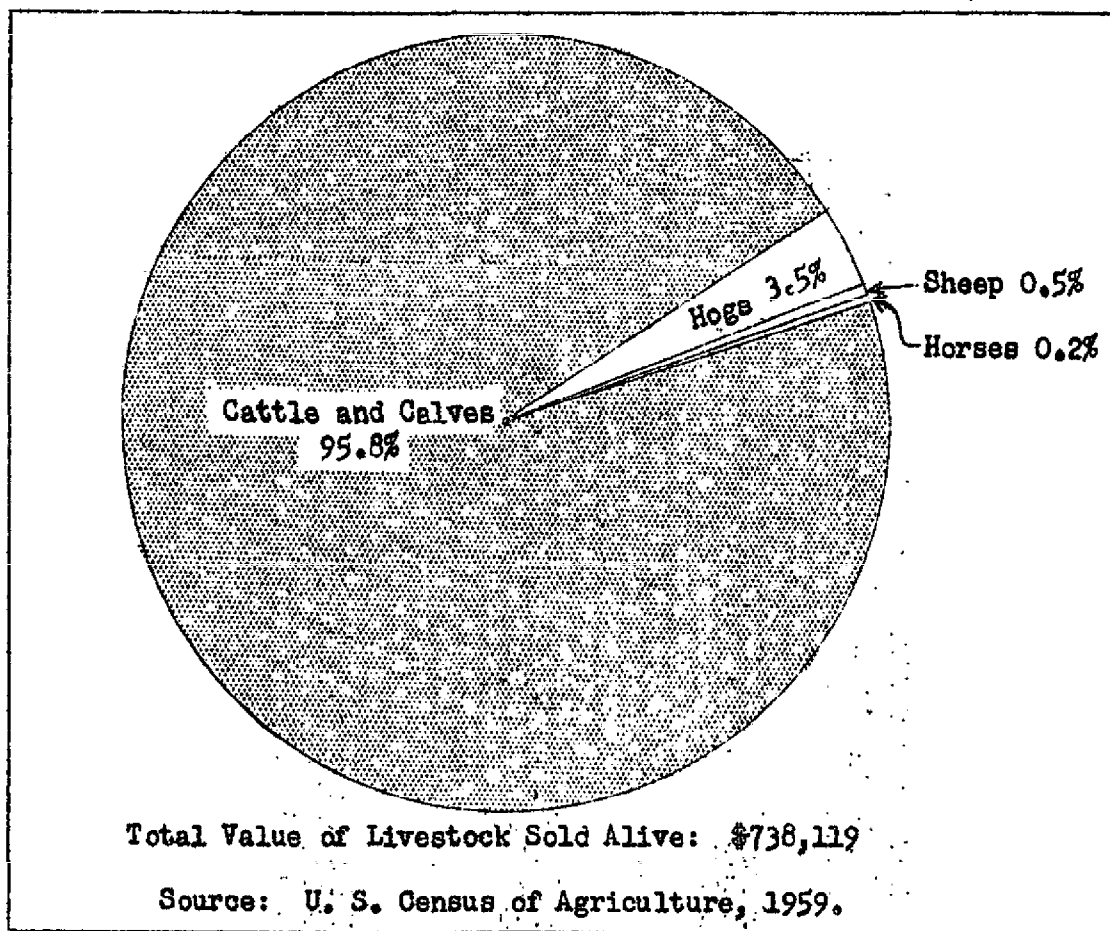


Figure 10: Value of Livestock Sold Alive  
Pend Oreille County, 1959

Livestock Trends

Significant changes have occurred in livestock farming in Pend Oreille County since 1940. The value of livestock and livestock products sold increased from \$284,639 in 1940 to \$1,222,488 in 1959. There were more cattle and sheep in the county in 1959 than in 1940 while there were less hogs, chickens, turkeys, horses and mules. Changes also have occurred in the production of dairy and poultry products. Although the production of whole milk has increased over the years, cream sold off farms has been reduced considerably. Farm eggs have increased in sales in recent years but the marketing of chickens and turkeys from the farms has dropped.

Cattle: Beef and Dairy

Beef and dairy cattle are the mainstay of Pend Oreille County agriculture. According to the Census of Agriculture, nearly 87 percent of the farms in the county reported cattle and/or calves on hand in 1959. The combined value of cattle and calves plus dairy products sold off Pend Oreille County farms in 1959 amounted to \$1,159,767 or about 78 percent of the value of all farm products sold during that year.

Table 22. Livestock Numbers on Farms  
Pend Oreille County, 1939-1962

Year	All Cattle (head)	Beef Cattle (head)	Dairy Cattle (head)
1939	6,300	2,800	3,500
1940	6,400	2,900	3,500
1941	7,000	3,500	3,500
1942	8,000	3,200	4,800
1943	9,400	4,300	5,100
1944	10,600	5,100	5,500
1945	9,000	4,200	4,800
1946	8,000	3,500	4,500
1947	8,000	3,700	4,300
1948	7,000	2,900	4,100
1949	7,200	4,100	3,100
1950	7,600	4,000	3,600
1951	7,000	3,400	3,600
1952	8,100	4,300	3,800
1953	8,300	4,900	3,400
1954	8,600	5,600	3,000
1955	9,500	6,300	3,200
1956	9,000	6,100	2,900
1957	8,300	5,400	2,900
1958	8,300	5,700	2,600
1959	8,600	5,900	2,700
1960	9,100	6,800	2,300
1961	9,000	6,700	2,300
1962	9,700	7,600	2,100

Source: Statistical Reporting Service, U.S.D.A.

Since 1939, there has been increased interest in raising beef cattle among Pend Oreille County farmers. Interest in beef cattle may be attributed in part to the greater demand for meat products which came during World War II in the 1940's and later from the Korean conflict in the 1950's. Also, many farmers began to raise beef cattle rather than operate a dairy farm because the latter entails a greater amount of labor and equipment. Many part-time farmers have gone into beef cattle production. Finally, stockmen have been able to increase their ability to handle more animals by greater efficiency.

Beef cattle in Pend Oreille County increased from 2,800 head in 1939 to 5,100 in 1944, dropped to 2,900 in 1948 and then rose to 6,300 in 1955. Since 1955, numbers have gone down to 5,400 head in 1957 and again in 1959 but a recent upward trend resulted in an all-time high of 7,600 in 1962.

The war-time population increase in the Spokane metropolitan area and the resulting greater demand for fluid milk stimulated expansion of dairy farming in southern Pend Oreille County. Dairy cow numbers increased from 3,500 head in 1939 to a peak of 5,500 head in 1944. Since World War II, the milk cattle population has leveled off at less than pre-war figures. Since 1955, numbers have dropped below 3,000 head, reaching 2,100 head in 1962. Greater emphasis on beef production accounted for much of the decrease in dairy cattle numbers. Competition from other areas of the Spokane milkshed, particularly the Columbia Basin, also has had the effect of reducing local interest in dairying. The production of fluid milk, however, has not declined relative to the reduction in dairy cattle numbers. The amount of milk sold off the farms increased from about 3,200,000 pounds in 1944 to over 11,100,000 pounds in 1959. Improvement of dairy herds and dairy husbandry has resulted in increased productivity but the major part has come in the shift from sales as cream to sales as whole milk.

The separation of milk for cream as a farm activity has steadily declined over the years. Pend Oreille dairymen sold more cream than whole milk up to about 1930. Increased demand for fluid milk and improved transportation facilities throughout the Inland Empire have shifted the emphasis from the farm marketing of cream to whole milk. In 1944, Pend Oreille County dairymen sold about 221,006 pounds of butterfat in cream but by 1959 this was down to 18,945 pounds.

Table 23. Dairy Products Sold From Farms  
Pend Oreille County, 1949-1959

Year	Any Milk or Cream Sold	Whole Milk Sold	Butterfat in Cream Sold
	Dollars	Pounds	Pounds
1949	\$250,083	4,004,538	121,102
1954	291,710	5,828,973	72,197
1959	452,822	11,129,008	18,945

Source: U. S. Census of Agriculture.

According to the Census of Agriculture, there were 100 livestock farms other than poultry and dairy farms and 57 dairy farms in Pend Oreille County in 1959. Beef cattle are well distributed throughout the Pend Oreille Valley. Dairy farms, however, are largely found in the south-central part of the county where distance-cost from the Spokane milk market is not prohibitive.

### Poultry Farming

Poultry farming in Pend Oreille County has steadily declined in importance since 1944. Sales of poultry and poultry products from the county's farms decreased from \$98,335 in 1944 to \$93,557 in 1949 and to \$30,844 in 1959. Chickens sold numbered 25,623 in 1949 compared with 5,987 in 1959. In 1959, no Pend Oreille County farms specialized in poultry, whereas there were 16 special poultry farms ten years earlier in 1949. The total number of farms which sold chickens and/or eggs also declined during this period. Among Washington counties, Pend Oreille ranked thirty-fifth in number of chickens sold and was thirty-sixth in eggs sold during 1959.

Chickens four months and older on farms in Pend Oreille County in 1959 numbered 11,781. There were over 30,000 chickens in the county in 1944 but by 1949 the number had decreased to about 16,000 birds. Most of the chickens are found in the southern part of the county between Newport and the Camden area. A few are raised around Cusick.

Table 24. Chickens, Eggs and Turkeys  
Pend Oreille County, 1939-1959

Year	Chickens 1/ (birds)	Egg Production (dozens)	Turkeys Raised (birds)
1939	22,574	243,445	1,916
1944	30,019	272,853	659
1949	15,882	128,258 2/	91
1954	18,078	95,918 2/	395
1959	11,781	63,820 2/	90

1/ Four months and older. 2/ Eggs sold.

Source: U. S. Census of Agriculture.

Eggs sold off Pend Oreille County farms in 1959 amounted to 63,820 dozen—a decrease of 33.5 percent from the 1954 sales. In 1959, 79 farms reported having sold eggs compared with 132 in 1954.

Pend Oreille County's turkey production is very minor. Only 90 birds were reported in 1959 by 9 farms. In 1954, the turkey population in the county was 395 raised on 20 farms. None of the farm flocks were over 50 birds in 1959.

### Hogs

Hogs are a secondary and sideline livestock industry in Pend Oreille County. Hogs decreased in numbers after the peak years during World War II. Since 1949, however, there has been a slow, upward trend in hog numbers. The Census of Agriculture inventory taken in the fall counted 669 head in 1954 compared with a slightly larger figure in 1959 of 677 enumerated on 119 farms. In 1959, 58 farms reported having sold alive 786 hogs and pigs during the year for which farmers received a total of \$25,938.

Hogs are in small herds in the south-central part of the county. They are raised primarily for local slaughter.

Table 25. Hogs, Sheep, Horses and Mules  
Pend Oreille County, 1939-1959

Year	Hogs (head)	Sheep (head)	Horses and Mules (head)
1939	719	300	1,074
1944	968	562	1,035
1949	591	83	706
1954	669	349	454
1959	677	326	432

Source: U. S. Census of Agriculture.

Horses and Mules

Horses and mules for farm work and transportation have decreased in numbers in the last 40 years as tractors and other vehicles have come into more general use. Saddle and pack horses are the most prevalent type raised today. In 1920, there were 1,352 horses and mules on Pend Oreille County farms and in 1959 there were only 432 head. In 1959, 18 horses and mules were sold off 11 farms for \$1,700.

Sheep

Sheep raising is on a minor scale in Pend Oreille County. In 1944, the Census counted 562 head. Sheep numbered only 83 five years later in 1949 but in more recent years the number has increased to over 300 head. The sheep are kept in small farm flocks. Farms with sheep numbered 17 in 1959 with the majority of the farm flocks composed of less than 25 head. In 1959, 272 sheep and lambs worth \$3,536 were sold alive by Pend Oreille County farmers while 1,715 pounds of wool were shorn from 195 sheep.

Table 26. Livestock Sold From Farms  
Pend Oreille County, 1959

Livestock Sold	Number of Farms Reporting	Number Sold	Value in Dollars
Cattle	302	5,933	706,945
Calves	205	3,125	258,010
Horses and Mules	11	18	1,700
Hogs and Pigs	58	786	25,938
Sheep and Lambs	11	272	3,536
Broilers	--	--	--
Chickens (other than broilers)	58	5,987	No Data

Source: U. S. Census of Agriculture, 1959.